

## CLAIMS

1. A split processing system comprising:
  - (a) a plurality of nodes, each node including one or more processors, each node having a specific number of failure modes which is less than the number of failure modes in an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node; and
  - (b) a communication network that allows the one or more processors at each of the nodes to interoperate with each other.
2. The system of claim 1 wherein at least some of the nodes are database processing nodes which include an instance of at least a portion of a database.
3. The system of claim 2 wherein at least some of the nodes are processing nodes which do not contain a database.
4. The system of claim 3 wherein at least some of the nodes that do not contain a database are provided access to contents of databases in other nodes via the communication network.
5. The system of claim 2 wherein each of the database processing nodes further comprise an operating system and one or more applications.
6. The system of claim 2 wherein at least some of the database processing nodes include disk systems having one or more disk drives for accessing the respective databases.
7. The system of claim 2 wherein at least some of the database processing nodes include memory-resident systems having one or more memory-resident storage devices.
8. The system of claim 1 wherein at least some of the nodes include an instance of at least a portion of a database.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein at least some of the nodes have the same portion of the database as each other, the nodes that have the same portion of the database as each other further comprise database replication software which allows the same portions of the database to remain synchronized whenever the contents of the database at one of the nodes is changed.

10. The system of claim 9 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using synchronous replication.

11. The system of claim 9 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using asynchronous replication.

12. The system of claim 9 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using dual write synchronization.

13. The system of claim 1 wherein at least some of the nodes are in different physical locations.

14. The system of claim 1 wherein at least some of the nodes are co-located.

15. The system of claim 1 wherein the number of processors at each node is about the same.

16. A split processing system comprising:

(a) a plurality of nodes, each node including:

- (i) a processor subsystem including at least one processor, and
- (ii) an operating system,

wherein each node has a specific number of failure modes which is less than the number of failure modes in an unsplit system wherein all of the processors are located at a single node; and

(b) a communication network that allows the one or more processors at each of the nodes to interoperate with each other.

17. The system of claim 16 wherein at least some of the nodes include an instance of at least a portion of a database.

18. The system of claim 17 wherein at least some of the nodes have the same portion of the database as each other, the nodes that have the same portion of the database as each other further comprise database replication software which allows the same portions of the database to remain synchronized whenever the contents of the database at one of the nodes is changed.

19. The system of claim 18 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using synchronous replication.

20. The system of claim 18 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using asynchronous replication.

21. The system of claim 18 wherein database replication software performs the synchronization using dual write synchronization.

22. The system of claim 16 wherein at least some of the nodes are in different physical locations.

23. The system of claim 16 wherein at least some of the nodes are co-located.

24. The system of claim 16 wherein each node further includes:

(iii) one or more applications.